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Romantic HOMES

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to
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- Simple Shabby Elegant Style
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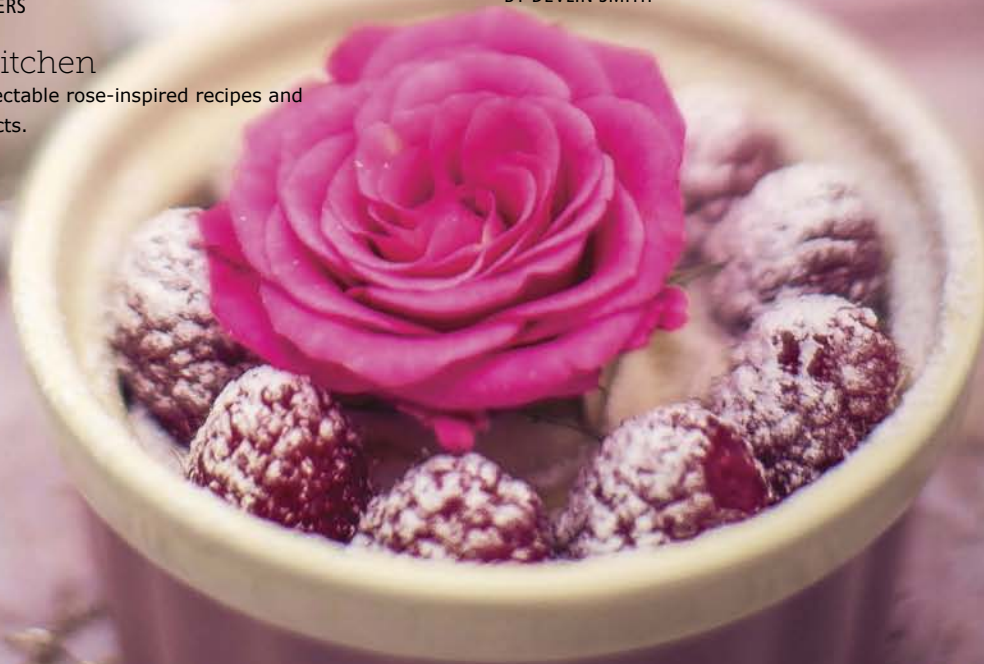
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A HEALTHY Obsession

A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN HOME DESIGN is how to edit your spaces. As Americans obsessed with consuming, we trade in our cars every three years and brave weekend lines at club stores to buy encyclopedia-sized cereals and other items in bulk. This perpetual cycle also adds editing closet and storage spaces to our list of weekend tasks.

The one area where editing is not prioritized is in the rose garden. A garden encroached by roses is not menacing like a stuffed garage that exposes a hoarder's ugly secret. Quite the contrary, the garden's natural beauty recalls a classic British story portraying a young girl with a scratched knee and loose hair ribbon, who finds something mystical in a dwelling place of roses that will forever change her life.

When the rose garden is trimmed back, cuttings perform their alternate function of beautifying the interior. A home overdressed with bundles of roses brings forth bursts of color and a scent that is more universally pleasing than piercing iris or sugary geranium.

A rose also retains its style through all its blooms. It happens to be partial to a full bloom, seduced by the full-scale romance that is a bit showy. Even the petals are ornamental. This is why luxury hotels will shower your bed with rose petals in the manner of an ancient ritual.

An obsession with roses is a healthy one, and this issue pays tribute to the flower that feeds into pleasure without guilt.

Jacqueline F. deMontravail
Jacqueline deMontravail
Editorial Director

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letters | to the editors

YOURS TRULY...

DEAR EDITORS,

I loved "Lively Traditional Elegance" in your January/February issue. Tradition speaks volumes concerning happiness. Breaking the rules may sound like fun, but those rules are there for a reason, tried and true. We need tradition.

BETHAMAE JABBORA
Bellingham, Washington



Share with us!

Romantic Homes loves to hear from you. Please write and tell us how we've inspired you or what you've done to decorate your home using our ideas. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have.

Romantic Homes reserves the right to edit all letters.

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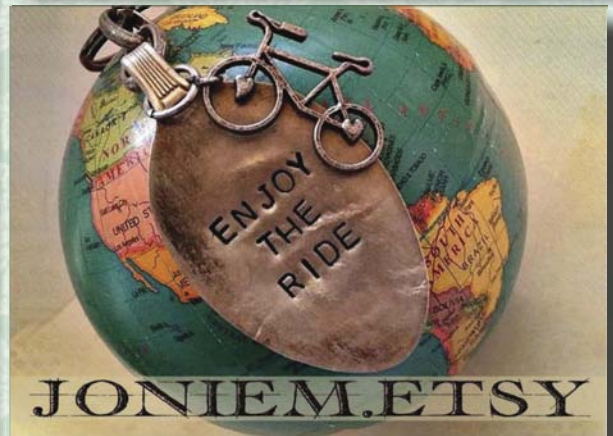
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Farmhouse Chic

MY HUSBAND, RANDY, and I live on seven acres with our two cats, Ollie and Opie, in the Post Oak Belt of Texas. We always agree as we drive up our tree-covered lane that this is the cutest little place in Texas.

The cottage garden that surrounds our home is planted in herbs, perennials, and over 100 antique and old-garden roses. The inside is decorated in a neutral pallet I like to call "farmhouse chic." Our home is full of fun flea-market finds and one-of-a-kind vintage pieces, along with slipcovered furniture from Simple Things, the very best furniture store ever. It's located in Fort Worth (well worth the trip to visit).

I look forward to my *Romantic Homes* issue every month to inspire me and for the great listing of sources to shop the kinds of things I love.

Truly,
KATHY STALEY
Submitted via email



Call for Entries

Readers: Send us your unusual and upbeat home-related stories and photos! Email devlinsmith@engagedmediainc.com or visit romantichomes.com/contact-us to send a message. Please write "My Home submission" in the subject line.

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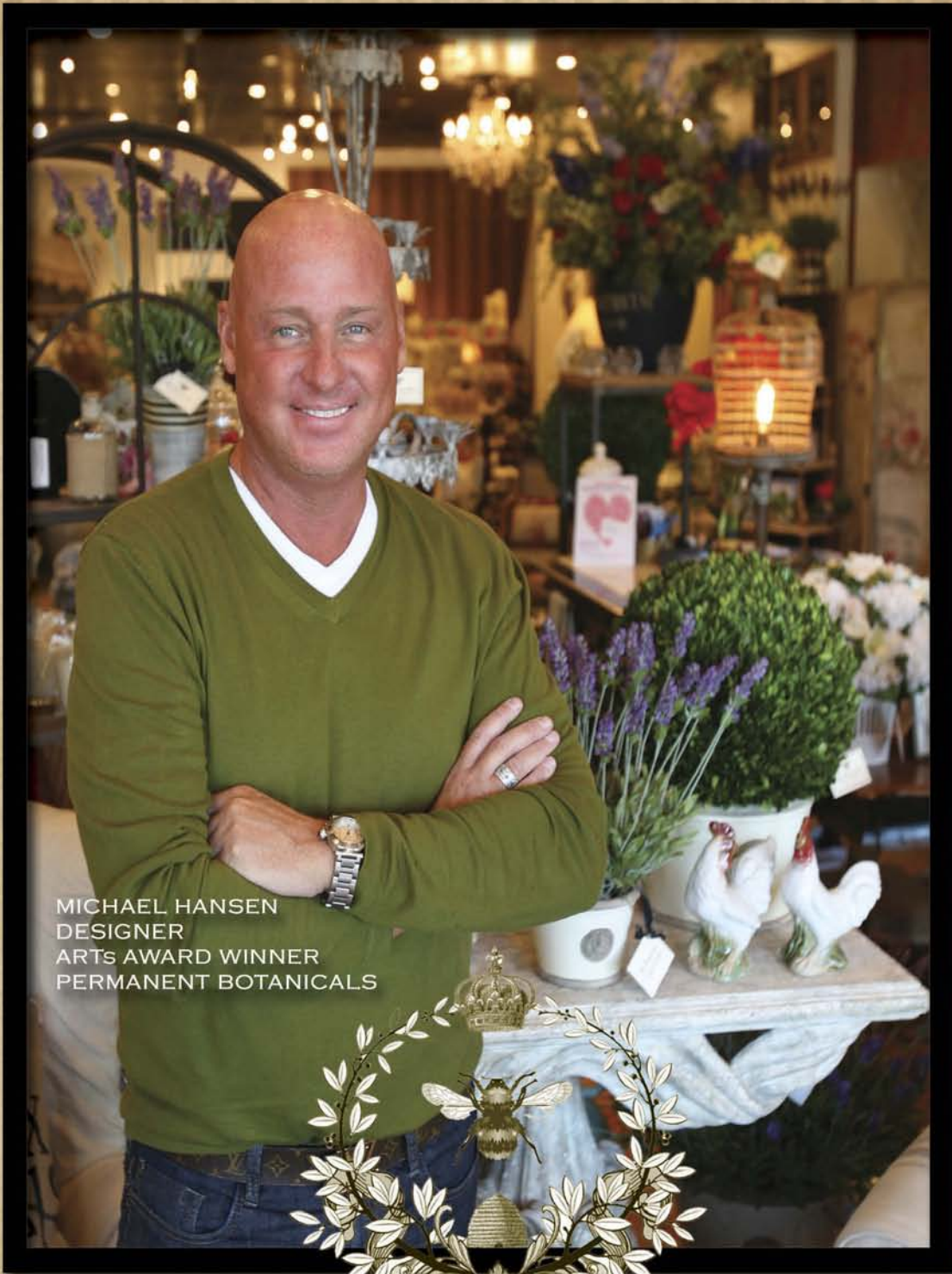


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Pour the Light

ADD ELEGANT WHIMSY to your dining room or library with this teacup chandelier from The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. It's made from two vintage silver platters, a central teapot, and a creamer and sugar dish that serve as finials. Teacups suspended from the curved handles of antique silver spoons encircle the fixture. The cups can be easily removed for use. Three interior lights provide soft illumination. The chandelier can be personalized with family china.

Teacup Chandelier, \$1,500–1,650, huntington.org



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Rose knobs, \$6.50 each. (425) 802-4838 or angelheartdesigns.com.



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fabulous!!!"*

"Came home with fantastic treasures."



Our Very Special Guest
Rachel Ashwell
will be signing her book on Saturday
April 25th from 10am- 2pm



For more information on the show and to purchase tickets, please visit:
www.remnantsofthepast.com

we love | details

VINTAGE INSPIRATION

In the market for some of the loveliest and most romantic textiles around? Look no further than Peony and Sage.

BY GAY VAN BEEK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH GARDNER, SARAH
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IN A QUIANT STONE COTTAGE in the English seaside town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Kimberley Bell spends her days managing both her family and her flourishing textile business. Many would think they would not consider looking “across the pond” for interior design inspiration, yet one glance at Bell’s fabric line, Peony and Sage, and they’re smitten.

Bell created Peony and Sage to showcase her love and flair for designing textiles. Since 2011 she has been creating, designing and distributing her fabric to stockists all over the world. Her fabrics evoke a vintage, soft feeling, yet she is not afraid of color, as evidenced by the bright pinks in her Cottage Garden collection. Filled with roses and peonies, or softly faded large or small checks, Cottage Garden is romantic enough for a bedroom setting yet classic enough for the family room.

The Coastal Collection is all about soft blues, beiges and creamy whites with a few surprises thrown in: Ochre, a muted yet deep yellow hue that works perfectly as an accent, and a brighter blue called Danish Blue, which highlights sweet birds on a Swedish gray background.

There is incredible attention to detail with all of Bell’s products. Her pillows have gorgeous dressmaker details such as piping in coordinating fabrics, box pleats and fabric-covered buttons. Her linens are thick, lush and suitable for both upholstery and drapes. She washes her plain linens in linen water so that, upon arrival at your door, they smell divine.

Thinking of creating a beautiful nursery or children’s room? Look no further than

Prints in the Cottage Garden collection include roses, wreaths, bees, stripes and dots.

A headboard and footboard are upholstered in fabric from Peony and Sage’s Cottage Garden collection.





The Jack & Jill collection features Jack Russell terriers and rabbits printed on various backgrounds, including stars and dots.



Peony and Sage fabrics are used for these Fairy Sleepover bed kits by Clarabelle Interiors.



Bell's Jack and Jill collection, which has sweet Jack Russell terriers on various linen backgrounds, and her Mini Vintage Cowboys collection, which features vintage cowboy themes on her classic washed linen.

Peony and Sage offers yardage, lampshades, pillows, and upholstery pieces—all with remarkable quality and attention to detail, and all overseen by Bell.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.

Receive a 10% discount on Peony and Sage products when you mention you saw the shop in *Romantic Homes*.

A French chair is upholstered in Peony and Sage fabric.

Cushions are offered in any of Peony and Sage's fabrics. Shown here is the Jack All Star print.



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Peony and Sage plain linen is available in slate gray, blue gray and mouse, a muddy, stony brown color.

The Coastal collection features seagull, pigeon, feather, butterfly, star, stripe, dot and check prints.



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on the hem of her
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Pretty as a picture, with a stunning gown that pays tribute to Blue Willow—a classic china pattern recognized all over the world—this nostalgic beauty will capture your imagination. Her name is “Rowena,” and she’s only available through this exclusive offer from The Hamilton Collection.

Master Craftsmen sculpt each detail with skill to showcase this lovely lady’s delicate beauty and graceful silhouette. Then, using fine artists’ brushes, they lovingly paint her gown in the recognizable cobalt blue color as they replicate prized elements from the beloved Blue Willow motif. Notice the decoration that rims the plate also lines the hem of her dress, while the birds from the pattern grace the front of her gown.

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Vintage Market Decor



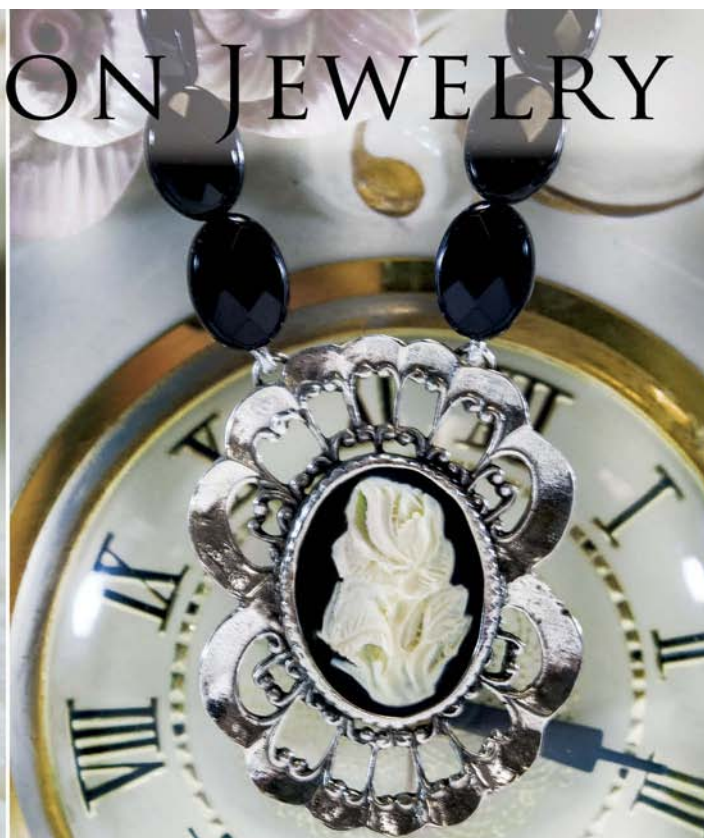
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SPRING IS THE PERFECT TIME to host an elegant tea party. I have a big balcony and my greatest pleasure is to welcome my lovely friends there this time of year. And I have so many cute decoration ideas and delicious recipes to try.

I love different table settings, though romantic style is my favorite: a beautiful, feminine theme with soft colors, a delicate touch and, of course, roses. Roses are indispensable!

For a chic afternoon tea party, you need just a few decorative pieces—roses, vintage china sets, botanical flower illustrations, stamps, old book papers and glass bottles. These ingredients will help make the event all the more special.

Two of my favorite decorations for a tea table are paper cones made from old book pages and bottle vases. You can find old books at flea markets or, if you have some around the house that haven't been read in a very long time, you can give them new life as decorations. And glass bottles can be sourced from a number of places, including flea markets.

Old Book Paper Cone

You will need:

- Pages from an old book
- Paper doilies
- Craft glue
- Scissors



What you'll do:

1. Roll the book pages into cones and seal the sides closed with craft glue. Trim the top edge to even it out.
2. Wrap a doily around each cone to decorate it.
3. Write or type the guests' names on cardboard and cut them out in strips. Cut notches on the ends for added flair, and then tuck the strips into the cones.
4. Fill the cones with sweets or rose petals.





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Bottle Decoration

You will need:

- Pretty bottles
- Paper doilies
- Botanical flower illustrations (or photocopies of botanical illustrations)
- String, twine or packthread
- Scissors
- Craft glue

What you'll do:

1. Glue a mini botanical flower illustration or photocopy on a paper doily.
2. Use string to tie the doily to the bottle.
3. Fill the bottle with a single rose.



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GILLYFLOWERS

Craft these flower brooches to embellish clothing or accent pieces throughout your home.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY
JENNELISE ROSE



I AM CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT for a beautiful piece of lace. When I began to make lace flower brooches called Gillyflowers (named after my mum, Gillian) for my shop, my hunt broadened to include beautiful antique and imported fabrics, trims and vintage bijoux perfect to embellish a flower.

Vintage materials such as scraps of lace from a vintage dress or antique ribbon pieces are the best to make these flowers with. Gillyflowers can be used in so many places, as an accessory to dress up a pretty blouse or skirt, or to embellish a pillow or lampshade in your home.

What you'll need:

- Lengths of lace, tulle or other fabric
- Needle
- Thread
- Glue
- Vintage buttons, jewelry or pearls for decoration

What you'll do:

1. To create the Gillyflowers you will need lengths of lace, tulle or other fabric cut into strips approximately 2–2 ½" wide and as long as you wish. (The longer the strip the more gathers it will have; 20" long is often what I do, but depending on the thickness of the lace or fabric, you might want to do more or less).

2. With a needle and thread, stitch at ½" intervals along one edge of the strip of lace and pull it into gathers. Stitch the two ends together to make a circle. (It will look like a little ballerina skirt.) Repeat this with as many different pieces of lace, tulle or fabric as you wish, and then stitch all of the circles together to create a flower.

3. For a more layered effect, use thinner strips of lace in the center and wider strips underneath. You can also take lace strips 3–4" wide, fold them in half (to

make lengths that are closer to 2" wide) and stitch the two edges together into gathers so the fabric puffs out.

4. To complete the flowers, stitch or glue a vintage button, a piece of jewelry or a few pearls in the center. You can also hang ribbons, pearls or beads from the flower to create a more romantic effect.



Artist Jennelise Rose sells custom artwork, handmade creations (including Gillyflowers) and vintage finds in her Etsy shop (etsy.com/ca/shop/Jenneliserose). Follow her via her blog, jenneliserose.blogspot.ca, and her Facebook page, Jennelise Rose.

ROSE AND PISTACHIO CUPCAKES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY FROM *LOLA'S
FOREVER* BY LOLA'S BAKERS
PHOTO BY PETER CASSIDY

Enjoy these scrumptious cupcakes with beautiful, edible decorations.

Cupcake Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups cake flour mixed with 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup caster/granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon rosewater
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup chopped unsalted pistachio nuts

Buttercream Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ sticks butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
- Pink food coloring paste (optional)
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 tablespoon rosewater
- 2–3 tablespoons whole milk

To Decorate:

Chopped pistachio nuts and edible rose petals

Equipment:

- Muffin pan lined with 12 muffin liners
- Pastry bag fitted with a large star nozzle/tip

Makes **12 cupcakes**

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl and set aside.

3. Place the butter, sugar and vanilla bean paste into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment (or use an electric whisk and large mixing bowl), and beat the mixture at medium speed for 1–2 minutes, until light and fluffy. Occasionally scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula to make sure that all the butter and sugar is incorporated.

4. On low speed, add the eggs, one at a time, until fully incorporated into the mixture. Add the sifted dry ingredients, mixing on low speed, until combined. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Once the batter is smooth, add the rosewater, sour cream and pistachios, and mix. Do not overmix.

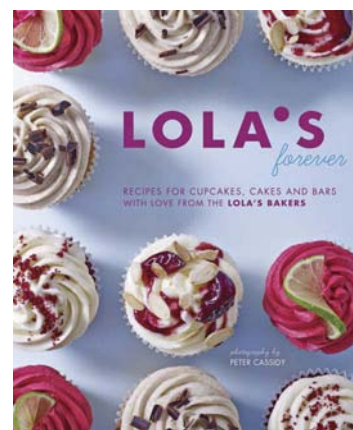
5. Using an ice cream scoop, divide the mixture between the muffin liners, filling them to almost two-thirds full. Bake in the preheated oven for 20–25 minutes, until well risen and a skewer inserted into the cakes comes out clean. Transfer the cupcakes to a wire rack to cool completely.

6. To make the buttercream, place the butter into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment (or use an electric whisk and large mixing bowl), and beat until soft and fluffy. Add the vanilla bean paste and a small amount of pink food coloring (we like a very soft shade of pink, but feel free to experiment with the color) and mix. Sift

in half of the icing/confectioners' sugar and slowly mix until incorporated. Add the second half of the sugar; then beat slowly, until all the sugar has been incorporated. Add the rosewater; then slowly add the milk, a tablespoonful at a time, mixing at medium speed until the icing is light and fluffy. If it is too stiff, add a little more milk.

7. Spoon the buttercream into the piping/pastry bag, and pipe a swirl onto the top of each cupcake. Alternatively, spread the buttercream onto each cupcake using a palette knife or metal spatula.

8. Decorate with chopped pistachios and edible rose petals (see photo on page 36).



LOLA's Forever by Lola's Bakers, photography by Peter Cassidy, published by Ryland Peters and Small, © 2014; rylandpeters.com

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KIMBERLY MCCOLE

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Floral Flavor

These projects and recipes will
infuse your kitchen with roses.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED
BY SYL LOVES



DEAR "HAPPY KITCHEN" READERS, in this issue I would like to share with you a few of my ideas to perk up your kitchen with a little "rose charm" and whet your appetite with a few easy-to-make recipes.

Rose-Inspired Kitchen Projects

Let's start with some do-it-yourself ideas for how to transform ordinary items in your house into beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces. You won't need extra tools, a big budget or too much effort. My wish is for you to have fun being creative and reusing items that you already have.

Tabletop Cabinet

While cleaning my basement, I came across this hidden treasure that I bought at a flea market some years ago. I decided to bring it back to life by cleaning it up and painting it a lovely antique white. I then grabbed one of my favorite fabrics and thought, why not dress it up further by decorating its windows?

You have two options here: You can either put the fabric on the back side of the window and fasten it with tape, or you can have it on the outside of the window, which helps with avoiding the glare or reflection, if that bothers you. If you choose to have the fabric on the outside, you can fasten it using universal glue.

This once-dust-covered cabinet has found new life on my side table. It's such a nice eye-catcher and can even be used as a handy storage place for my herbs.



"I'd rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck."
- Emma Goldman



Framed Artwork

Adding a little rose charm around the cabinet would be cute, right? Back to the basement I went to find a few old picture frames. Just like with the cabinet, cover the glass with fabric or even pretty papers, either on the inside or outside, and then hang your artwork.

As you might have guessed by now, I am a big fan of flowery photography. I love collecting images that I find in magazines and using them as wall decoration. You can create a lovely wall display just using various prints or magazine images and masking tape. It's the easiest way to make a quick change in the kitchen without having to repaint, change the wallpaper, etc. I love it!

Storage Jars

Maybe you have some unused storage jars lying around. Spice them up by wrapping floral-pattern tape around them and, within just a few minutes, you'll have pretty containers for your flour, sugar and other dry ingredients.





Rose Recipes

Once you're done creating your lovely rosy corner in the kitchen, it's time to enjoy some yummy recipes.

Roses, the queen of all flowers, are not only beautiful to look at and smell, they can also be eaten. In some regions of the world, like India, eating roses is as common as eating herbs or chocolate. You can eat pretty much any rose, but my advice is to trust your nose—the better the smell, the better the taste!

Pink and yellow roses taste the best, I think.

Before you start taste testing, be sure the roses haven't been sprayed with pesticides or you will get sick. You may also want to remove the white portion of the petal before eating, because it has a bitter taste.

Rose petals and buds need to either be eaten right after harvesting or be dried. I like both dry and fresh roses myself, as it gives you more variety in the kitchen. Here are a few of my favorite easy-to-follow recipes.

Rose Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 fresh eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- A handful of dried petals

1. Let the butter sit for about 30 minutes to get soft.
2. Mix the flour, butter, sugar and eggs in a big bowl until soft. Add in the petals and knead the dough until the petals are evenly distributed.
3. Preheat your oven to 390°F.
4. Line the baking tin with baking paper, and choose your favorite cookie cutter for cutting out the cookies.
5. Bake for 15–17 minutes until the cookies are golden in color.
6. Make sure not to put extra petals on top of the cookies as they may burn.

Rose-Flavored Sugar

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of sugar
- 20 dried rose petals

1. Roll the petals between your fingers until they are as small as possible; then grind them smaller with a mortar and pestle.
2. Mix the petals thoroughly with the sugar.
3. Pour the combination into an airtight container and keep it for one day.
4. Open the container the next day and enjoy a little tea with your wonderful rose-flavored sugar. This also makes a nice gift.



Rose-Infused Peach- or Lemonade

Grab a few mason jars or similar containers.

For each jar you will need:

- 8 raspberries
- 10 rose petals or rose buds (fresh or dried)
- ½ ripe peach or ½ lemon
- Sparkling or still water
- Honey, to taste (optional)

1. Place the peach or lemon, raspberries and rose petals in the jars; then fill them with water.

2. If you like, add honey and make sure it dissolves.

3. Place your drink in the fridge for about an hour. Make sure not to let it sit in the fridge longer than 4 hours though, as then the ingredients tend to get mushy.

Cheers!



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Sweet Rooms and Roses

A romantic home is more than a doctrine on design; it's creating comfort zones that make the entire family feel comfy and cozy.

BY JO-ANNE COLETTI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HULYA DINCEL

*"Home is a name, a word,
it is a strong one; stronger
than magician ever spoke, or
spirit ever answered to, in
the strongest conjuration."*

—Charles Dickens

HULYA DINCEL AND HER HUSBAND, AHMET, discovered early in their marriage that they shared the same design principles and have worked together harmoniously to fashion the home of their dreams. For the Dincels, born and raised in Turkey and relocated to Las Vegas, the move to America allowed them the opportunity not only to pursue a teaching career, but also to unleash their passion for romantic design.

Inspired by French-country and shabby-elegant styles, Hulya decorates with vintage pieces and brings them home where they can be cleaned up, painted or left as is. Each item is carefully selected with a specific room in mind. Like a finely tuned instrument, Hulya has a talent for quickly culling treasures from flea markets and estate sales and seamlessly incorporating her trove of finds into her décor.

"We both love white and muted tones, which has made decorating decisions easy," says Hulya. "I love to add nostalgic pieces to a feminine-themed space, but that's not to say a man shouldn't feel welcome."

Ahmet embraces the sublime aesthetics and enhances the theme by bringing flowers, especially pink roses, to his wife. Every room in the home is filled with roses and radiates an angelic energy that appeases the spirit. "Our romantic home is like a therapy session to us," says Ahmet. "My wife has a magical way of making our home look and feel special with fresh flowers and aromatic candles, soft dimmed lights and relaxing music—even our cats feel happy and peaceful."



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“Soft colors, cozy seating and fresh flowers always generate a smile and a positive mood when company enters our home.”

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Ahmet recognized his wife's talent for design and encouraged her to share her ideas on social media. Hulya started a blog, Romantic Shabby Chic (romanticshabbychic.com), and was able to reconnect with her native Turkey, where this romantic style is hard to come by. "I want to inspire and help change the lives of women who want to enrich their homes from dull to extraordinary," says Hulya.

Pretty accessories convey the homeowner's love of pastels and things romantic; a multitude of roses collected in delicate vases grace all corners of the house, while floral patterns, pillows and prairie wallcoverings send a warm message that all are welcome. "I like to touch the hearts of family and friends with meaningful and personal touches; soft colors, cozy seating and fresh flowers always generate a smile and a positive mood when company enters our home," says Hulya.

There's a difference between a house and a home, and Hulya's infectious style is the epitome of decorating a home straight from the heart.



For more on Hulya, visit romanticshabbychic.com.



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Creating a Beautiful *Tea Table*

Incorporate these elements into your
spring tea party celebrations.

BY DIANE SEDO AND ANNA HOGBIN
PHOTOGRAPHY AND STYLING BY
ANNA HOGBIN

I'M SO EXCITED FOR YOU TO MEET ANNA HOGBIN, who lives in a small village in New South Wales, Australia. When I first read her beautiful blog and Facebook page, Mama Bear's Kitchen, I knew I had discovered a kindred spirit who shares a love for all things vintage, old-fashioned and beautiful. Anna's photos of her family, home and tea parties took my breath away. I have a standing invitation to attend one of Anna's Aussie-style tea parties, and I may just take her up on the invitation some day.

– Diane Sedo

When my young children ask me what I want for Mother's Day each year, my first response is always imploringly, "A day off!" Whether juggling a busy career and family, or raising young children at home, mothers everywhere are tirelessly putting other people's needs before their own. Often there is little downtime and few opportunities to relax.

As a mother of nine children, my days are filled to the brim with many demands. Even so, in the midst of my responsibilities, I often prioritize teatime. Whether it is sharing a pot of tea with my daughters while listening to them read, or setting an intimate table for two for an unexpected guest, I always have a tea pot, fine china and a pretty tablecloth on hand to declare to the bustling world around me that it is time to stop and take a moment to relax.

Creating beauty in the midst of a busy life revitalizes and refreshes a weary mind, body and soul. A beautiful tea table causes you to look past the mundane and ordinary and focus on the lovely. Your tea table becomes a haven of rest, a place that pleases the eye and enriches the soul. Your heart swells as it takes in the charm and elegance of the beauty before you.

Add colorful blooms to your vintage high-tea table setting.

Dress up your tea party sandwiches with shabby fabric strips.



From one busy mother to another, let me encourage you this Mother's Day to gather the precious women in your life and invite them to tea. Step aside from your duties, gather a few bits and pieces and bring beauty to your table, encouragement to your loved ones and delight to your soul.

There are a few elements I like to include in all of my tea parties. Here are a few helpful hints to add splendor and flair to your gathering.

1. MOVE YOUR TEA TABLE OUTSIDE.

A pretty garden or a tree in your backyard can provide a beautiful backdrop and give you a refreshing perspective.

2. BUNTINGS. A tea party must-have, beautiful buntings can be made from lace or linen doilies, pretty fabric scraps or even pages from a vintage picture book. String them around your tree, pin them onto your back fence or hang them on your veranda posts. Buntings quickly turn an afternoon tea into a celebration.

3. USE WHAT YOU HAVE. Go shopping around your home and look with fresh eyes at your belongings. Gather together a pile of old books, your wedding pearls, brass candlesticks, your grandmother's linen napkins, an old clock or a favorite vase. You will be surprised by what you have to bring to your tea table.

4. SET UP A SERVING STATION. Use an old dresser, desk, wooden crates or quirky vintage table, anything you have. Take it outside and dress it up with a pretty cake, doilies and flowers to serve your drinks and sweets on. Tie ribbon around vintage milk bottles to complete your charming drink station.

Vanilla sugar cookies decorated with pastel fondant, buttercream petals and pearls.

Buttercream roses are perfect toppers for your party cakes.





5. GUEST FAVORS. My absolute favorite element of a tea party, favors can be a cupcake or a cookie placed in each teacup, pretty soap wrapped with ribbon, a vintage cake fork or sweets in a glass jar. Label your favors with guests' names to assist with seating arrangements. There are so many simple, inexpensive ways to say, "Thank you for coming, you are valuable to me and I want to make you feel special." What mother doesn't need this? Give something back to the women who give so much.

I have found time and time again that it is worth the effort to set aside time in my life for beauty and refreshment. It brings balance and peace to my life. Setting a beautiful tea table connects us to the sisterhood of women who for centuries past have known the joy and renewal of gathering their finest china and linen to take tea together.

Shabby meringue curls are the perfect bite-size treat.

Transform vintage milk bottles into lemonade glasses using lace and string.

Anna Hogbin of Mama Bear's Kitchen creates vintage-styled events, specializing in baby and bridal showers, high-tea parties and vintage dessert tables. Her work has been featured on the websites Kara's Party Ideas, Hostess with the Mostess and Catch My Party, and in *On Trend Bridal* magazine. Anna is a cake stylist, self-taught baker and photographer. For recipes, inspiration and styling tips, see more of Anna's work at Mama Bear's Kitchen (mamabearskitchen.com.au), or follow her on Facebook. She lives in Australia with her wonderful husband and family.

Contributing editor Diane Sedo is co-author of *Taking Tea with Alice* (1997 Warner Books, 2007 Benjamin Press) and is a certified instructor of Dorothea Johnson's Tea and Etiquette program (Elmwood Inn Fine Teas). Follow her Facebook pages Sentimental Celebrations and Tea Cups and Cupcakes.

entertaining

Rose Revelry

The classic flower sets the tone for this tea-party celebration.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED
BY JESI CELEITA



THIS TEA PARTY WAS INSPIRED BY the timeless beauty of roses. So feminine and lovely—you can never go wrong with this classic flower.

I wanted to incorporate roses into as many sweets as I could. The chocolate cake pops have mini white roses on top as well as adorable flowery paper straws. On the cookies I placed a delicate rose print on wafer paper and a tiny fondant rose and white frame, matching the cake.

The rose gelatins are awe-inspiring to anyone who sees them. The imagination goes wild trying to come up with an explanation as to how a rose could end up inside. I am lucky enough to have a very talented mother-in-law who makes these and is always happy to contribute her beautiful works of art to my parties. She also made the gorgeous sugar roses you see on the cake and cupcakes.





Roses bring so much beauty to any dessert; your guests might find them too pretty to eat.

The timeless beauty of roses incorporated into innovative desserts like wafer paper cookies and artistic gelatin makes for an amazing experience.

I also served vanilla and strawberry macaroons, stacked sugar cookies and vanilla cupcakes dressed in handmade cupcake wrappers. On the table we had more cupcakes, macaroons and little raspberry-topped ramekin cakes, which I thought were simply adorable.

To make these cakes (shown on page 62), all you do is simply spray the ramekins and pour in your favorite cake or brownie mix to about half full. Once they are baked and cooled, pipe frosting or whipped cream on top. Then place raspberries, strawberries or blueberries on top, and sprinkle with powdered sugar. You can top everything with a pretty rose for extra charm.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.









Roses are such an easy way to dress up not only your table, but also your desserts.





FINE ART

An updated turn-of-the-century
London house is now a masterpiece
of light and color.

WRITTEN AND STYLED BY
ROS CONNELLY/NARRATIVES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT SANDERSON/
NARRATIVES

F

RANCES AND TREVOR HALLIDAY

loved their previous home, which, apart from being a pretty semi-detached Victorian house with a lovely garden, also held fond memories for them. “Our daughter Amber had a beautiful wedding there with a marquee, so that house will always have a special place in our hearts,” says Frances. However, when they learned about their current house and its beautiful position on the edge of a wood where they could walk their dogs, they just had to have the 1912 Arts and Crafts property.

“With its many chimneys and roofs, surrounded by majestic and extremely ancient oak trees, it looked like a mini stately home, or a sleeping beauty, which we just had to wake up,” says Frances.

“We still can’t quite believe how we managed to buy it. In fact it was so camouflaged it was only when our estate agent took us to view the property that we realized it was there. We knew the instant we got there that we were going to buy it, and one week later it was ours.”

One of the most appealing aspects of the property to the couple was the fact that it was an Arts and Crafts house. “We have owned many Victorian and Edwardian houses, and I was beginning to get a little bored with the same layouts,” says Frances. “This place had a completely different feel to it, having been built originally in the shape of a cross. It also had the addition of an enormous double garage, probably from the 1920s.”

Inside, the house was pretty much unchanged from when it was built. “It had been owned and lived in by a family for more than 50 years and only recently vacated, so it still had a real sense of history and age,” says Frances. Nevertheless, there was still a little updating needed.



The home was once divided into two living areas—one for the homeowners and one for the servants—by a winged staircase. The Hallidays had the staircase removed and the stairs moved. The new staircase now goes from the first to the third floor.



“The plumbing and electrics were quite antiquated,” recalls Frances. “Also, the house was still divided into two living areas from a bygone era—one section for the owners and one for servants.”

A huge and rather ornate winged staircase emphasized this separation. “This seemed to dominate the whole house and created a division of space from front to back, so the front of the house with its larger rooms felt more formal, while the back of the house had lots of interconnecting corridors and small rooms,” says Frances.

It became obvious by their second visit that the staircase would have to go. Having made this momentous

decision, the couple’s next problem was where to relocate it. “We decided to do all the work (including the loft extension) at the same time. It took a lot of thought and the help of our architects, who created a 3-D image in order to work out how we could take the staircase from the ground floor to third floor level and enter the upper area with full head height,” says Frances.

When the staircase changes were complete, the next design issue was the choice of materials to use—wood, metal and glass all came and went through the design process. “In the end I decided to go for the colonial-painted-wood look, which is reminiscent of a house I stayed in as a child in Nigeria,” says Frances.





The home was painted throughout with Farrow & Ball All White. Each room has a distinctive style, thanks to colorful fabrics and accessories.



Putting in the third floor and removing the bulky staircase meant that the Hallidays could open up the house to let in as much light as possible. “The extra space in the loft for bedrooms meant we were able to reconfigure the second floor by changing what had been five bedrooms, one bathroom and a lot of landings into three large bedrooms with en suite facilities and walk-in wardrobes,” says Frances.

Finally, on the ground floor, the couple added an extension to the kitchen at the rear with a wall of floor-to-ceiling folding glass doors overlooking the back garden. “This gave us a lovely bright kitchen and dining room with a snug TV space at the far end.”

Style Guide

Key Characteristics of Victorian, Arts and Crafts, and Edwardian homes

BY DEVLIN SMITH

FRANCES AND TREVOR HALLIDAY lived in Victorian and Edwardian homes before purchasing their current home, a 1912 Arts and Crafts property, in 2011. The couple appreciated the design differences that set this home apart from their prior homes. Read on to learn how these three styles compare.

VICTORIAN

This label refers to a number of styles popular during Queen Victoria’s long reign from the mid-19th through the beginning of the 20th century. Homes of this style have two or three stories and wood or stone exteriors, feature wings and bays, and are decorated with intricate trim and painted in bright colors. Famous examples include The Painted Ladies in San Francisco.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

This movement, which sparked the Craftsman and bungalow styles, came to prominence in the late-19th century. Many of the design elements associated with the style, which emphasized custom, handmade work, reacted against both Victorian architecture and the Industrial Age. Homes of this style have open floor plans, built-in furniture and light fixtures, and they feature exposed beams. Famous examples include The Gamble House in Pasadena, California.

EDWARDIAN

This style dates from the reign of Edward VII in the first decade of the 20th century. Homes of this style used lighter colors and plainer patterns than seen in Victorian homes. These homes also featured less ornamentation. Famous examples include Shaw’s Corner, the home of playwright George Bernard Shaw in Welwyn Garden City, England.



“My inspiration for the color schemes was the seaside—we had a wonderful summer there with our daughter, who recently moved to the West Sussex coast.”





The Hallidays added an extension to the kitchen and installed floor-to-ceiling folding glass doors overlooking their back garden.







The house was then painted throughout in Farrow & Ball All White, with wide oak plank flooring downstairs, and soft gray and cream carpet on the other two floors. “It’s interesting that the rooms became known as The Pink Room and The Blue Room,” says Frances. “They’re actually both painted in the same shade of All White, but the furnishings and the paintings make them look like very different colors.”

There only seems to be one thing that the couple would have done differently. “In hindsight, I was possibly a bit ambitious when it came to the front garden,” admits Frances. “I tried to emulate one that we visited in Rome, designed by Michelangelo, which had lots of pathways, archways and planted beds full of flowering shrubs and topiary trees. But on reflection it might have been better to take into account the British weather and have a pond instead.”

The second floor, which once had five bedrooms, one bathroom and several landings, was renovated to now feature three large bedrooms with en suite facilities and walk-in closets.



Treasure CHEST

This home is the showcase for its owner's favorite vintage and antique finds.

BY DEVLIN SMITH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PEGGY JANSSEN





LUCIA BROERTJES' HOME IS AN EXTENSION OF her work, its shabby vintage décor a perfect complement to the romantic clothing and accessories she sells at her Arnhem, Netherlands, clothing store, Bohemian. "I feel really lucky that I can spend the whole day enjoying the romantic atmosphere that I love so much and I can make so many other people happy, too," she says.

Her lakeside home in the village of Huissen is decorated in shades of white with hints of pink and green. It features vintage furniture pieces Lucia has collected from flea markets and shops in The Netherlands, Belgium and England over the past two decades, accented with items including vintage suitcases, notecards and serving pieces.

"When I have the chance, I go to the flea market to find some beautiful things for good prices, but I am busy with my own work so I like to visit my favorite shops when I have some time off; it is a real treat" Lucia says.

Uncluttered

WHEN DECORATING THE ROOMS IN HER HOME, Lucia likes to give her flea-market finds space as opposed to filling rooms with multiple large pieces. "My house is not brimming with antiques collections," she says. "For me, a piece of furniture [works best] if you give it the space."

GIVING YOUR FURNITURE SOME SPACE makes your rooms appear larger and gives each piece its chance to shine in your home. Avoiding clutter also makes it easier to change your furniture arrangement or move pieces from room to room, as Lucia does. "I like to have my whole house in the same [style] so I can swap the stuff and everything stays in perfect harmony," she says. "[I] am extremely satisfied when I acquire a new treasure and [give it] the perfect spot."





Vintage Accents

SMALL TOUCHES ADD to this home's romantic feel, from the vintage notecards displayed on the chest of drawers in the living room to the pale pink ballet slippers hung on the wall. You can easily add similar pieces to your décor, finding these accents at flea markets, antiques stores or even in your own home.

VINTAGE NOTECARDS AND LETTERS can be purchased for a few cents or might be found in a box in your garage. Beautifully illustrated postcards, invitations, notes or greeting cards offer the charm of a time gone by.

LIKE THE BALLET SLIPPERS, JEWELRY AND OTHER ACCESSORIES also make beautiful display pieces. Pull sequined evening bags and long gloves out of your drawers and arrange them on a side table.





Lucia Broertjes fills her home
with fresh flowers. “Every
week they are chosen with love
and care,” she says.

In Bloom

FLOWERS ARE A KEY ELEMENT IN THE ROOMS of this home. Owner Lucia purchases fresh flowers every week. "Sometimes beautiful, full bouquets and sometimes small tufts [that are placed] throughout the house," she says. "I find it so luxurious to have a small bouquet beside my bed." Lucia also uses dried and silk flowers in her home, noting that all flowers "give that extra romantic touch."

FILL YOUR HOME WITH FLOWERS. Follow Lucia's lead by creating large, urn-filling arrangements, placing single stems in tall vases, or clustering a simple bouquet in a rustic pitcher. Hang dried flowers by doors and windows. Accent your displays with silk flowers.





With its unfinished floors, bright-white walls and open rooms, this home, built in the 1970s and updated by the Broertjes family, is an ideal showcase for each of Lucia's finds. By incorporating a few of her design choices in your own home, from limiting the number of furniture pieces you place in a room to using open shelving, you can also create a home that lets each of your treasured pieces shine.



Top Left: Smaller treasures are collected in this jar.

Above: Lucia found this cabinet at a market in the Belgian Ardennes.



Lucia has been collecting vintage and antique pieces for more than 20 years. This fruitwood side table is one of her earliest finds.

Unconventional Flooring

THE HOME'S UNFINISHED WOODEN FLOOR is made from cheese boards (many cheese makers age their cheese on wooden shelves), which the family had installed. "We could smell the cheese in the first weeks," Lucia says. "It is a cheap way of having a marvelous floor, and we are very happy with it."

PALLETS AND BARRELS are two nontraditional sources for wood floors. Visit salvage yards or search through websites like Craigslist to find your own one-of-a-kind flooring.





Below: The family updated the home's original 1970s kitchen with this kitchen from Ikea.



Out in the Open

SERVING PIECES IN THIS KITCHEN are stored on a long shelf above the sink, which offers a number of benefits. The stacked, mix-and-match pieces add another decorative touch to the home. Having this open storage space also makes the small kitchen appear larger.

THE FAMILY STORES ITEMS ON OPEN SHELVES and cabinets throughout the home, making everyday items like linens and plates decorative accents in the home. Like them, you can bring more of your pieces out in the open. Use bookshelves in place of cabinets. Install floating shelves. Add glass or screen inserts to your kitchen cabinet doors, or remove the doors altogether.



Mora Clocks

LUCIA AND HER HUSBAND HAVE THIS WHITE MORA CLOCK on display in their bedroom. These longcase clocks, characterized by a round head and round body, were first produced in Mora, Sweden, in the mid-18th century.

EACH PART WAS HANDCRAFTED, with families specializing in the manufacture of individual parts. At the height of the Mora clocks' popularity, more than 1,000 clocks were produced per year and sold throughout Scandinavia.

TODAY ANTIQUE MORA CLOCKS can sell for tens of thousands of dollars.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96





The showpiece in Lucia's bedroom is this old French bed from Brocanterie Déjà-Vu in Oosterhout, The Netherlands.

pages

LUSH AND LOVELY

Gardens of the Garden State makes New Jersey's nickname seem completely natural.

BY CAITLIN HANSEN

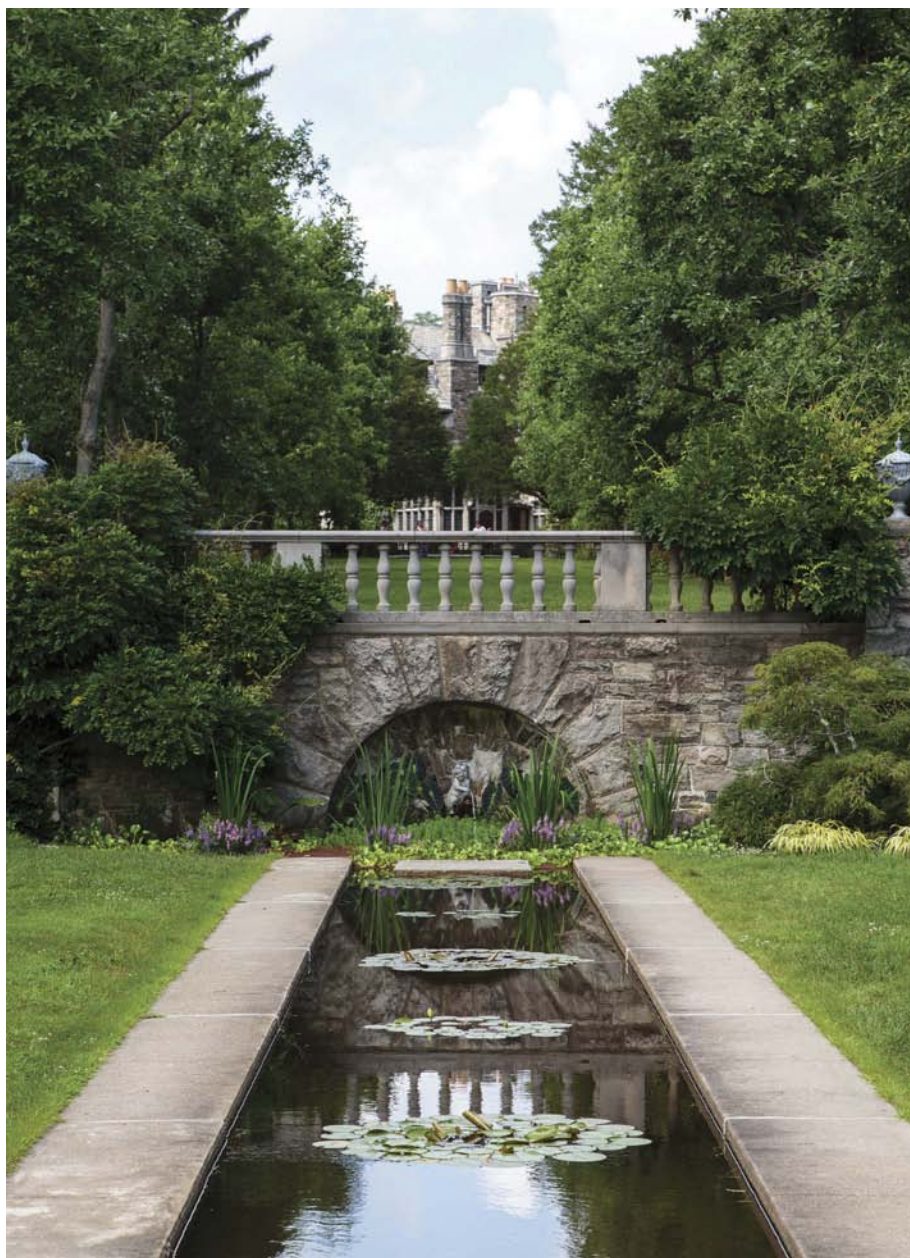
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE MONACELLI PRESS

“**A** certain amount of structure is important to comfort the eye but plants should look comfortable in their home.”

Gardening has been a well-loved hobby since before recorded history began, both as a necessity for survival and for aesthetic pleasure. Whether it is done to grow the food that keeps us alive or simply so we can enjoy the sights and smells, humans love to grow things.

In their latest book, *Gardens of the Garden State*, Nancy Berner and Susan Lowry take a closer look at 29 of New Jersey's most impressive gardens, arboretums, and flowery cottages and estates. From incredible historical sites to personal labors of love, the variety of spaces they allow readers to take a peek into is vast.

The book begins with a bit of a history lesson on New Jersey, including information about the state's four distinct geographical regions and varied climates—which support different plant hardiness zones. The writers postulate that the extreme variety of gardens in New Jersey is a reflection of the dramatic physical differences in landscape across the state.



The picturesque water features and architecture at the New Jersey State Botanical Garden at Skylands are sure to inspire anyone who visits.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

How New Jersey Became the Garden State

MOST STATES IN THE U.S. ARE NICK-NAMED for some prominent part of their history or culture—the Peach State for Georgia, the Golden State for California, the Empire State for New York—but the origin of New Jersey's name has a different story.

Credit for the nickname often goes to Abraham Browning, who was the state's attorney general from 1845 to 1850, but the term may have been used previously. Later investigations by New Jersey officials found no official recognition of the slogan. Despite all of this, the name stuck and the state has grown into its title proudly and dutifully, as Gardens of the Garden State shows.

After the general background information, each of the gardens the authors visited is listed and described in full. Readers will learn about the original owners of each property and what influenced or inspired their gardening decisions, as well as which kinds of design styles are present in each fantastic display of floral prowess.

Many of the gardens featured were created decades ago—some in the early 1900s—and are now kept by surviving family, friends or colleagues of the original designers, or were purchased at some point by historical foundations or state organizations. Several had to be downscaled from their original grandeur but have been updated and improved with modern features.

Every garden's description is complemented by several images that capture the lush landscapes and colorful displays as well as the incredible architecture.



The thousands (45,000–75,000 each year to be exact) of annuals displayed every summer at Linden Hill in Rumson make for a bright and powerfully impressive garden that could overwhelm visitors if not for the impeccably kept surroundings. Even more amazing, most of these plants are grown in greenhouses on the property.

“So let us all have gardens Above all, let us have a sense of seclusion in our flowered space, that the calm and peace shall in no way be broken.” – Martha Brooks Hutcheson, *The Spirit of the Garden*.



Above: Dunwalke East in Bedminster features a lovely courtyard with a central fountain surrounded by shaped greenery and several seating options. The flowers framed by shrubbery add a unique view.

Below: Possibly the smallest arboretum in the United States, the Linwood Arboretum aims to influence visitors to increase landscape diversity. Despite its size—under an acre—the grounds are filled with plants meant to inspire people to branch out and explore their options when it comes to garden design.



GARDEN ELEMENTS

Include these basic features for a classic garden that will please you and your visitors.

- **FLOWERS** – Find out what kinds of plants will grow best in your zone and choose your flora from there. Don't worry about sticking to a color theme either. Some of the best gardens in *Gardens of the Garden State* are the ones with dozens of colors featured together.
- **CONTAINERS** – If you have a smaller space to work with, try potted plants and window boxes on for size. Container gardening will allow you to save space and control growth while combining more types of plants together.
- **GARDEN ART AND ARCHITECTURE** – For a garden to be enjoyed, it must be a comfortable place to explore. Be sure to include paved paths, seating, statues, gazebos or arches throughout the landscape to give your visitors more to look at and places to stop and take in the scenery.

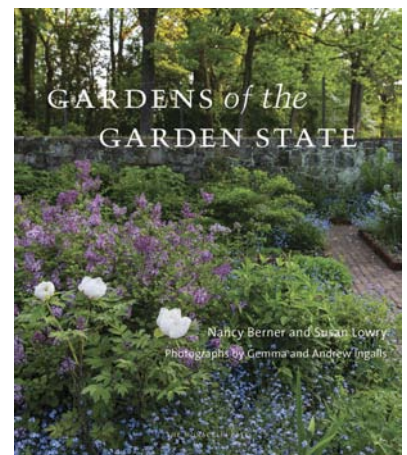
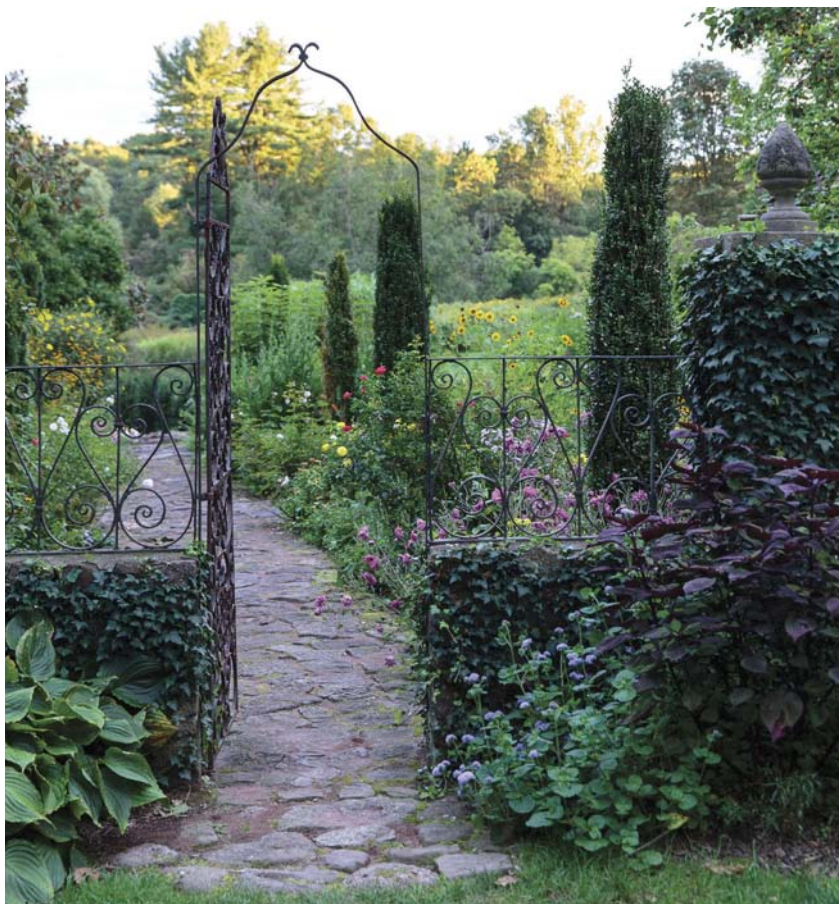
Opposite: The garden at the Willowwood Arboretum in Chester Township was discovered, purchased and developed by brothers Hal and Robert Tubbs in the early 1900s. The cottage garden is just one space that shows their influence and legacy living on.



Left: The poolside garden at Kennelston Cottage in Far Hills is framed by hundreds of purple allium flowers. The purple and blue offset the brown, white and brick of the nearby cottage for a lovely countryside look.

Anyone who loves nature will enjoy this book for the pictures alone, but the stories about each garden truly bring the photos to life. The authors were able to dig into the origin of each garden and share that personal insight with readers.

The fact that the authors explored both elegant historical residences and smaller personal gardens gives the book a nicely rounded feel. Neither type of garden outweighs the other in importance or beauty. The Laurelwood Arboretum in Wayne, with its hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas, is on the same level as a garden grown by a northern New Jersey couple. And while the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Upper Montclair look like something out of an incredible painting, one architect's 20-year labor of love in Pottersville, Jardin de Buis, will inspire visitors equally.



Gardens of the Garden State by Nancy Berner and Susan Lowry, photography by Gemma and Andrew Ingalls, published by The Monacelli Press, ©2014; monacellipress.com.

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DESIGNED AROUND A RED ROSE

Create a romantic design concept from seemingly unrelated vintage rose collectibles.

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY
MELINDA GRAHAM



Design TIP:

It's always a good idea to "go shopping" inside your own home. Look at your collections with fresh eyes. You just might be inspired to redo a spare room or display treasures in a new way.

THOSE ENCHANTED BY ROMANCE tend to collect all things lovely. Upon first glance, the treasures may seem to have nothing in common, but with closer inspection, there is always a common thread among collections. Whether the focus is ephemera, china, linens or figurines, there will undoubtedly be a tie that binds: color, motif, material, period or style.

These collections may be lurking in cupboards, stacked on bookshelves, hiding in cabinets and stuffed into the backs of closets. Dig them out, spread them out and let them speak to you. Quickly you will see the common thread that drew you to collect these pieces in the first place. Shine a light on your precious finds and feature them in a special way. With a few helpful hints you can easily turn your random collections into a cohesive design scheme.

This home's guest room was given a fresh and romantic makeover using prized possessions and coveted collectibles. Romance was key and the inspiration was



Opposite: Vintage vanity sets may be a thing of the past but are still very collectable. Dig out prized possessions with beautiful lines, incredible patterns and wonderful colors. Take your collections out of retirement and give them new life.

Top Right: Cohesive design does not mean purchasing all new bedding, pillows and window treatments. You may wish to splurge on a bedspread, quilt or duvet as the focal point, but don't shy away from mixing in vintage lace and unique throw pillows.

Bottom Right: Pictures don't have to be on the wall and postcards don't need to be in binders. Prop interesting prints near seating areas or next to a bed. They can be admired more closely and the display will create interest. Rotate old postcards by season or special occasion. Guests will be tickled by the attention to detail.



a simple red rose. It all began with a binder filled with vintage rose ephemera. The cards became the color palette, and the images of roses inspired the theme.

The room is small so there was not a need for many furnishings. An eclectic mix-and-match grouping of furnishings was quickly assembled consisting of a bed, a few small tables and an armchair. No need to purchase a matching suite of furnishings when unique pieces can come together to create a space with charming character.

Years of gathered goodies that were packed into boxes and tubs were scavenged to complete this small oasis for visiting guests. A peppering of vintage roses and red tones kept the romantic floral theme cohesive. The result is a quiet, restful retreat for family and friends.



Opposite: Sometimes the tiniest of accessories can have a large impact. For delicate, small items like this hand-painted Italian glass vase, a cabinet is not the best choice for display. The vase would quickly get lost in the shuffle. Instead, find an open space near a light source to feature it in the best possible manner.

Top left: When romance is the thread that holds the décor together, the creative boundaries can be stretched. This antique lamp exudes feminine, vintage charm, and the warm glow elevates the room to another level.

Top right: Create special occasions for no reason at all, like a romantic breakfast in bed. Make it even more special by keeping the romantic theme and using mix-and-match delicate china.

Bottom Left: Contrary to popular belief, there are no real rules when it comes to decorating. Feel free to add a new pillow to vintage bed linens. The contrast in colors, styles and materials creates interest.

Bottom Right: A garden statue finds a home next to the beautifully made bed. This precious little girl is the perfect form to display vintage jewelry and hats.



Above: Complete bedroom suites are a dated concept. Mix-and-match furnishings meet the needs of the space, fit the room's scale and complement the feel of the décor.

Below: Always look to vintage ephemera when you are in a design rut. The colors, shapes and content are chock-full of inspiration.

Design TIP

IT IS A COMMON PRACTICE to display collections together: a row of pitchers placed high upon a shelf, linens neatly stacked in a closet, postcards safely stored in binders, old hats protected in tissue-lined boxes, and vintage jewelry separated and stowed in a cabinet. Make a change to that approach and be a scavenger. Collect precious possessions from all around your home to create a truly special design scheme in one dedicated space. What better way to display your collections than to honor them with a room all to themselves?



Creating Cohesion 8 TIPS FOR DEVELOPING A DESIGN SCHEME

WHETHER YOU ARE READY TO TACKLE A MAKEOVER or just hoping to refresh your décor, look to your favorite collectibles for inspiration. Keep it simple and refer to your favorites: a simple rose is an excellent choice and sure to inspire. Then make the most of your prized treasures by displaying them in new and unexpected ways. Fill a room with romantic charm and surround yourself with all the things you love. After all, shopping in your own closets and cupboards will surely please.

1. **BEGIN WITH INSPIRATION.** Look to vintage ephemera or old fabrics for exquisite patterns and colors. Then keep it simple and don't overcomplicate things. A delicate rose may be all the inspiration you need.
2. **MIX AND MATCH.** Gather furnishings based on color, style and function. Use pieces in unexpected ways, like substituting a glass-top side table in place of a traditional nightstand.
3. **SOFTEN A SPACE WITH FABRICS.** Layer fabrics using patterns, colors and textures that complement one another. Add lace and ruffles to turn up the romance.
4. **ACCESSORIZE.** Keep the theme or motif in mind. When in doubt about what to add to the space, refer to the inspiration. Push the boundaries of display by placing artwork on easels instead of hanging them on walls, peppering postcards throughout the room instead of keeping them in boxes or binders, and displaying vintage jewelry in clever ways on pillows or sculptures.
5. **CONSIDER LIGHTING.** Carefully select fixtures that will provide adequate light for tasks while complementing the décor. Don't shy away from bold or interesting fixtures.
6. **DRESS WINDOWS.** Be sure to address daylight and privacy needs with the materials you place on the windows. Unsightly roller shades or blinds may be needed for privacy, so be sure to soften the look by adding a sheer material or lace covering to diffuse the light in an elegant and subtle way.
7. **FLAUNT THE UNEXPECTED.** Find ways to feature unlikely accents like a garden statue. It will create interest and increase the cottage appeal. Since the inspiration is a rose, what could be better than to use other accessories from the garden?
8. **REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT.** The best way to create cohesion in a space is to repeat the theme throughout the space. Even the smallest of details can add to the overall impact.

we love | indulgences

THE *Evening* BATH

Turn down the bed, draw a warm bath and lay out your prettiest nightclothes for a relaxing evening of pampering and indulging.

BY JO-ANNE COLETTI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANET PARRELLA-VAN DEN BERG

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN OUR BUSY, modern world and it can be difficult to unwind after an eventful day with work, kids and family. What if tonight you draw yourself a warm bath, add a few drops of healing essential oil, add a half cup of lavender-infused Epsom salts and watch your worries and achy muscles melt away?

Let's Unwind

A quiet 20 to 30 minutes that's spent soaking in a warm bath before bed can make all the difference in how you sleep. The combination of essential oils, the soft glow of candles and an extravagance of bubbles can persuade the restless mind to drift off to a peaceful slumber.

Create Your Private World

Greet the bedtime hour by gathering essentials like scented candles, bath salts and lotions, essential oils, a glass of wine or cup of tea, a good book, a washcloth and a warm, fluffy towel.

Fill the tub with warm to hot water. If you like to soak with pile-high bubbles, now is the time to add them while the water is rushing. At the last minute, add

your favorite essential oils; then slip into the tub. Relax and breathe in all of the heavenly aromas.

Soothing Essential Oil Bath

Lavender, marjoram and Roman chamomile essential oils have been used to help promote relaxation and sleep for centuries, and can work wonders when added to a warm bath.

Add six to eight drops of essential oil of your choice to 2 tablespoons of carrier oil. (Olive, jojoba, coconut or sweet almond oils work nicely.) Carrier oils are necessary to prevent the essential oil from being too powerful and will also moisturize the skin.

Lavender and Epsom Salts Bath

Epsom salts combined with baking soda is a therapeutic remedy for achy muscles and inflammation, detoxifying impurities from the body and relieving headaches and stress. It will leave your skin feeling soft and supple as well.

Try this recipe from the blog This House of Joy (thishouseofjoy.com) at bath time. Add 1 cup Epsom salts plus 1 cup baking soda and two to three drops

of lavender essential oil to your bath water. Relax and enjoy.

Turn Down the Bed

Now that you're in peaceful and serene splendor, tuck yourself into a bed of fresh linen sheets and cozy quilts. Scent your pillow with a mist of lavender and place a sleep mask over your eyes. Sweet dreams!

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.



shopping guide

Details

Pages 18–24

Peony and Sage: 0128 938 8650 or peonyandsage.com. For a 10% discount, please mention you saw Peony and Sage in *Romantic Homes* magazine.

Entertaining

Pages 58–63

Distressed buffet: Shabby Chic Texas, (281) 917-0332 or shabbychictexas.com.

Heritage milk bottles: similar available from amazon.com or Michaels, (800) 642-4235 or michaels.com.

Linens and chairs: What's the Occasion Linens & Décor, (281) 406-1096 or wtolinensanddecor.com.

Milk-jug flower vase and trays: HomeGoods, visit homegoods.com.

Rose gelatin: Fancy Gelatin, visit facebook.com/FancyGelatin.

Styling, cake and baked goods: Dolce Designs, (832) 384-4485 or mydolcedesigns.com.

Teacups: collected by the author at various vintage malls.

White frame: Hobby Lobby, visit hobbylobby.com.

Fine Art

Pages 64–73

Air Force Blue binding, Steel Grey heavy-cord

stair runner: Mercado Carpets, visit mercado.co.uk.

All White paint: Farrow & Ball, 0120 287 6141 or farrow-ball.com.

Blue rug (similar style Mejlbj) and Liatorp console table: Ikea, (888) 888-4532 or ikea.com.

Brera striped linen, chandelier, lampshades: Designer's Guild, 0207 893 7400 or designersguild.com.

Chair and footstool: Sia, visit sia-homefashion.com.

Chest of drawers, French chateau sofa, wash-board wooden ceiling light shades, wine glass rack chandelier: Coach House, 0218 268 2666 or coachhouse.com.

Kitchen units: Bells Kitchens and Bathrooms, 020 8693 2223 or bellsbathkit.co.uk.

Old White chalk paint: Annie Sloan, (504) 305-5531 or anniesloan.com.

White leather bar stools: Made, visit made.com.

Treasure Chest

Pages 74–85

French bed: Brocanterie Déjà-Vu, visit brocanteriedejavu.nl.

Kitchen: Ikea, (888) 888-4532 or ikea.com.

Other items in home: Heerlyck Goed, visit heerlyckgoed.nl.

Other items in home: Philipse Vintage & Brocante, visit brocantehuisphilipse.nl.



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Simply

Pages 90–93

Old postcards and vintage accessories: Surroundings by Melinda, (239) 579-0409 or surroundingsbymelinda.com.

Indulgences

Pages 94–95

Essential oils: Mountain Rose Herbs, (800) 879-3337 or mountainroseherbs.com.

Sleep masks: All Natural Sleep, visit etsy.com/shop/AllNaturalSleepShop.

Vintage quilts, perfume bottles and bath accessories: by Janet Parrella-van den Berg, White & Faded, visit whiteandfaded.co.uk.

coming next month



JUSTINE CLARKE



PEGGY JANSSEN

SUMMER STYLE

THE LONG DAYS AND WARM NIGHTS of summer are coming. In our June issue we show you how to use simple accents to transform your home into a romantic, shabby retreat, perfect for relaxing and entertaining.

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The French Bee	thefrenchbee.com	11
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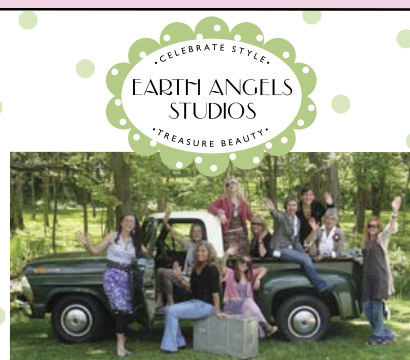
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Jo-Anne COLETTI, Artist



1. PINK VASE. This favorite long-stemmed vase reminds me of a genie bottle and looks charming with pink roses. (781) 837-6714 or vintagerosecollection.com.

2. ROSE HIP FACIAL CREAM. I have been using rose hip oil for years and this face cream by Lanoline is my go-to solution for dry skin. With natural rose hip, lavender and evening primrose oil, it helps restore your skin's elasticity and suppleness, smoothing fine lines while you rest. Visit naturalcollection.co.nz.

3. DECORATIVE PILLOWS. Pretty, hand-made decorative pillows by designer and artist Méa Strauss. Visit measvintage.blogspot.de.

4. THE QUIET HOUR BOOK. Reminiscent of the vintage gift books of the past, which maidens would ponder the day away reading and dreaming over their lovely imagery, this little booklet is the perfect companion to calm and inspire you. By Jo-Anne Coletti, (781) 837-6714 or vintagerosecollection.com.

5. JANE AUSTEN BOOK SET. Romantic and pretty in pink, this beautifully illustrated hardback set includes six Jane Austen books. (303) 946-1494 or juniperbooks.com.

6. ANTIQUE FLORENTINE TABLE. Antique Florentine tables are all the rage now and can be found at antiques shops and flea markets. This antique table is my favorite from Janet Parrella-van den Berg. Visit whiteandfaded.co.uk.



7. FRENCH-INSPIRED CHAIR. This chair by interior designer Kate Forman features French-inspired, 19th-century-influenced designs. 0196 273 2244 or kateforman.co.uk.

8. WILD ROSE PAINTING. Roses are the core of everything that inspires me and the main focal point of my paintings. Named after my dear friend Natalie, this painting is especially close to my heart and is just one of a series of wild rose compositions. (781) 837-6714 or vintagerosecollection.com.

9. VINTAGE-INSPIRED FLATWARE. My love affair with antique silverware went into overdrive when I discovered this set from Anthropologie. Vintage-inspired flatware pieces from 1800-1940 are delightfully mismatched into sets of four. (800) 309-2500 or anthropologie.com.

10. OPALESCENT TUMBLER. A luminous turquoise glass, ringed with flutes and bevels, from Anthropologie. (800) 309-2500 or anthropologie.com.



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